

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing transactions and settlements by using:

a supplier system used by a supplier who issues an invoice;

a buyer system used by a buyer who receives the invoice;

a second finance system which has a bank account of the supplier, and a first finance system which has a bank account of the buyer and performs deposit/withdrawal processing from the bank account of said buyer to the bank account of said supplier; and

a server which is connected communicably with said supplier system, said buyer system, said first finance system via a communication network;

wherein the method comprises steps in which:

the server receives, from said supplier system, an electronic invoice on which a unique identification code for identifying said invoice is generated by said supplier system;

said server registers said received electronic invoice in a database;

the server transmits, to said buyer system, a GUI screen for showing contents of said electronic invoice registered in said database and for allowing said buyer to approve the contents of said electronic invoice, and causes the buyer system to display the GUI screen;

said server or buyer system automatically creates a transfer request telegraphic message having said unique identification code written on said registered electronic invoice, on the basis of said registered electronic invoice approved by said buyer, in response to that said buyer has approved the contents of said electronic invoice displayed on said GUI screen by said buyer system, and then transmits the transfer request telegraphic message to said first finance system;

upon reception of the transfer request telegraphic message having said unique identification code at said first finance system, said first finance system performs the deposit/withdrawal processing for a payment of the approved electronic invoice having said unique identification code, wherein in the deposit/withdrawal processing, processing: (1) the amount of the approved electronic invoice is withdrawn from the bank account of the buyer and deposited into the bank account of the supplier, and (2) corresponding to the withdrawal and deposit of the amount of the approved electronic invoice, said unique identification code in the transfer request telegraphic message is transmitted from said first finance system to said second finance system; and

said second finance system transmits, to said server or said supplier system, and electronic deposit/withdrawal detailed statement described that a deposit is made to the bank account of said supplier, the electronic deposit/withdrawal detailed statement having said unique identification code received from said first finance system,

~~whereby said server or said supplier is enabled to specify the electronic invoice the amount of which has been deposited into the bank account of the supplier, by means of said unique identification code possessed by the electronic deposit/withdrawal detailed statement which is received from said finance system~~ wherein said supplier receives, from the second finance system, the electronic deposit/withdrawal statement having said unique identification code generated by the supplier system; and the unique identification code in the electronic deposit/withdrawal statement received by the supplier from the second finance system is the same unique identification code generated by the supplier system and sent from the supplier system to the server to the first finance system to the second finance system to said supplier system.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step in which:

when the supplier system receives the electronic deposit/withdrawal detailed statement, the supplier system automatically searches an electronic invoice having the unique identification code possessed by the deposit/withdrawal detailed statement, from among a plurality of electronic invoices held by the supplier system, ~~and the supplier system~~ reconciles the searched electronic invoice which has the unique identification code identical to said unique identification code in the electronic deposit/withdrawal statement received from the second finance system.

Claims 3-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A server in a management system for transactions and settlements, comprising:

a supplier system used by a supplier who issues an invoice;

a buyer system used by a buyer who receives the invoice;

a second finance system which manages a bank account of the supplier, and a first finance system which manages a bank account of the buyer, and performs deposit/withdrawal processing from the bank account of said buyer to the bank account of said supplier; and

a server which is connected communicably with said supplier system, said buyer system, and said first finance system via a communication network,

wherein once said first finance system receives a transfer request telegraphic message for an electronic invoice, the transfer request telegraphic message having an identification code, said first finance system performs the deposit/withdrawal processing for a payment of said electronic invoice, wherein in the deposit/withdrawal processing, processing: (1) the amount of the

approved electronic invoice is withdrawn from the bank account of the buyer and deposited into the bank account of the supplier, and (2) corresponding to the withdrawal and deposit of the amount of the approved electronic invoice, said unique identification code in the transfer request telegraphic message is transmitted from said first finance system to said second finance system, and

said second finance system is ~~capable of transmitting~~ configured to transmit an electronic deposit/withdrawal detailed statement having said identification code received from said first finance system to said server or said supplier system,

said server comprising:

means for receiving, from said supplier system, an electronic invoice on which a unique identification code for identifying said electronic invoice is written by said supplier system;

means for registering said received electronic invoice in a database;

means for transmitting, to said buyer system, a GUI screen for showing contents of said electronic invoice registered in said database and for allowing said buyer to approve the contents of said electronic invoice, and causing the buyer system to display the GUI screen; and

means for automatically creating a payment request telegraphic message having said unique identification code written on said registered electronic invoice, on the basis of said registered electronic invoice approved by said buyer, in response to that said buyer has approved the contents of said electronic invoice on said GUI screen displayed by said buyer system, and then transmitting the transfer request telegraphic message to said first finance system,

wherein said supplier receives, from the second finance system, the electronic deposit/withdrawal statement having said unique identification code generated by the supplier system; and the unique identification code in the electronic deposit/withdrawal statement received by the supplier from the second finance system is the same unique identification code generated by the supplier system and sent from the supplier system to the server to the first finance system to the second finance system to said supplier system.

Claims 12-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps in which:

said server registers a status of said registered electronic invoice in a database;

said first finance system notifies said server of a withdrawal from the bank account of said buyer by means of said deposit/withdrawal processing;

said server updates the status of said electronic invoice managed in said database to transfer request in progress, when said transfer request telegraphic message is transmitted to said first finance system or when said finance system notifies of a withdrawal from the bank account of said buyer by said deposit/withdrawal processing; and

said server notifies said supplier system of the updated status.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step in which:

the server updates the status of the electronic invoice managed in said database to an opened status, when transmitting, to said buyer system, said GUI screen showing the contents of said electronic invoice, and causing said buyer system to display said GUI screen.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

a calendar GUI preparation step in which said server prepares a calendar GUI screen displaying a calendar;

an invoice mark pasting step in which said server automatically pastes a mark indicating the electronic invoice registered in said database and the status of the electronic invoice managed in said database, in a space for a date of receipt of said electronic invoice, on the calendar of said GUI screen;

a calendar GUI supplying step in which said server supplies said calendar GUI screen that has the mark of said electronic invoice and the status thereof pasted thereon, to said buyer system, and causes said buyer system to display said calendar GUI screen; and

a mark changing step in which said server changes display of the mark pasted on said calendar to display showing the status obtained after the change, in response to a change of the status managed in said database for the electronic invoice indicated by the mark.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said server manages the status of each electronic invoice as opened and transfer request in progress and notifies said supplier system.

18. (Previously presented) The server according to claim 11, wherein said server manages the status of each electronic invoice as opened and transfer request in progress.

19. (New) The server according to claim 11, further comprising:

means for registering a status of said registered electronic invoice in a database;

means for updating the status of said electronic invoice managed in said database to the transfer request telegraphic message, when said transfer request telegraphic message is

transmitted to said first finance system and when said finance system notifies of a withdrawal from the bank account of said buyer by said deposit/withdrawal processing; and

means for notifying said supplier system of the updated status.